

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

**Claims 1-39 (cancelled).**

40. (currently amended) A composition comprising a non-covalent association complex of:

(a) a positively charged backbone; and

(b) at least two non-identical members selected from the group consisting of:

(i) a negatively charged backbone having a plurality of attached imaging moieties;

(ii) a negatively charged backbone having a plurality of attached targeting agents;

(iii) at least one member selected from the group consisting of RNA, DNA, ribozymes, modified oligonucleotides and cDNA encoding a selected transgene;

(iv) DNA encoding at least one persistence factor; and

(v) a negatively charged backbone having a plurality of attached biological agents, wherein each of said biological agents is a therapeutic agent and not a nucleic acid;

wherein said non-covalent association complex carries a net positive charge and at least one of said two members from (b) is selected from (i), (iii) or (v).

41. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 40, wherein said therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of VEGF, botulinum toxin, a blocker of VEGF, and insulin.
42. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 40, wherein said therapeutic agent is an analgesic.
43. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 42, wherein said analgesic is selected from the group consisting of lidocaine, novacaine, bupivacaine, procaine, tetracaine, benzocaine, cocaine, mepivacaine, etidocaine, proparacaine ropivacaine, and prilocaine.
43. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 40, wherein said therapeutic agent is an anti-asthmatic agent.
44. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 43, wherein said anti-asthmatic agent is selected from the group consisting of azelastine, ketotifen, traxanox, corticosteroids, cromolyn, nedocromil, albuterol, bitolterol mesylate, pirbuterol, salmeterol, terbutyline, and theophylline.
45. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 40, wherein said therapeutic agent is an antibiotic.

46. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 45, wherein said antibiotic is selected from the group consisting of neomycin, streptomycin, chloramphenicol, norfloxacin, ciprofloxacin, trimethoprim, sulfamethyloxazole,  $\beta$ -lactam antibiotics, and tetracycline.
47. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 40, wherein said therapeutic agent is an antidepressant agent.
48. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 47, wherein said antidepressant agent is selected from the group consisting of nefopam, oxypertine, imipramine, and trazadone.
49. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 40, wherein said therapeutic agent is an anti-diabetic agent.
50. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 49, wherein said anti-diabetic agent is selected from the group consisting of biguanidines and sulfonylureas.
51. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 40, wherein said therapeutic agent is an antiemetic or antipsychotic.
52. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 51, wherein said antiemetic or antipsychotic is selected from the group consisting of chlorpromazine, fluphenazine,

perphenazine, prochlorperazine, promethazine, thiethylperazine, triflupromazine, haloperidol, scopolamine, diphenidol, and trimethobenzamide.

53. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 40, wherein said therapeutic agent is a neuromuscular agent.
54. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 53, wherein said neuromuscular agent is selected from the group consisting of atracurium mivacurium, rocuronium, succinylcholine, doxacurium, and tubocurarine.
55. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 40, wherein said therapeutic agent is an antifungal agent.
56. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 55, wherein said antifungal agent is selected from the group consisting of amphotericin B, nystatin, candicidin, itraconazole, ketoconazole, miconazole, clotrimazole, fluconazole, ciclopirox, econazole, naftifine, terbinafine, and griseofulvin.
57. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 40, wherein said therapeutic agent is an antihypertensive agent.

58. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 57, wherein said antihypertensive agent is selected from the group consisting of propranolol, propafenone, oxyprenolol, nifedipine, and reserpine.
59. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 40, wherein said therapeutic agent is an anti-impotence agent.
60. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 59, wherein said anti-impotence agent is a nitric oxide donor.
61. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 40, wherein said therapeutic agent is a steroidal anti-inflammatory agent.
62. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 61, wherein said steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is selected from the group consisting of cortisone, hydrocortisone, dexamethasone, prednisolone, prednisone, and fluazacort.
63. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 40, wherein said therapeutic agent is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agent.
64. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 63, wherein said non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is selected from the group consisting of indomethacin, ibuprofen, ramifenizone, and prioxicam.

65. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 40, wherein said therapeutic agent is an antineoplastic agent.
66. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 65, wherein said antineoplastic agent is selected from the group consisting of adriamycin, cyclophosphamide, actinomycin, bleomycin, daunorubicin, doxorubicin, epirubicin, mitomycin, rapamycin, methotrexate, fluorouracil, carboplatin, carmustine (BCNU), cisplatin, etoposide, interferons, phenesterine, taxol and analogs and derivatives thereof, camptothecin and derivatives thereof, vinblastine, and vincristine.
67. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 40, wherein said therapeutic agent is an anti-viral agent.
68. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 67, wherein said anti-viral agent is selected from the group consisting of amantadine, methisazone, idoxuridine, cytarabine, acyclovir, famciclovir, ganciclovir, foscarnet, sorivudine, trifluridine, valacyclovir, cidofovir, didanosine, stavudine, zalcitabine, zidovudine, ribavirin, and rimantadine.
69. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 40, wherein said therapeutic agent is an anxiolytic agent.

70. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 69, wherein said anxiolytic agent is selected from the group consisting of dantrolene and diazepam.
71. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 40, wherein said therapeutic agent is a COX-2 inhibitor.
72. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 40, wherein said therapeutic agent is a contraception agent.
73. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 72, wherein said contraception agent is progestogen.
74. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 40, wherein said therapeutic agent is an anti-thrombotic agent.
75. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 74, wherein said anti-thrombotic agent is selected from the group consisting of a GPIIb/IIIa inhibitor, a tissue plasminogen activator, streptokinase, urokinase, and heparin.
76. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 40, wherein said therapeutic agent is a prothrombotic agent.

77. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 76, wherein said prothrombotic agent is selected from the group consisting of thrombin, factor V, factor VII, and factor VIII.
78. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 40, wherein said therapeutic agent is a hormone.
79. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 78, wherein said hormone is selected from the group consisting of prolactin, growth hormone, and epidermal growth factor.
80. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 40, wherein said therapeutic agent is an immunosuppressive agent.
81. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 80, wherein said immunosuppressive agent is selected from the group consisting of cyclosporine, azathioprine, mizorobine, FK506, and prednisone.
82. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 40, wherein said therapeutic agent is an angiogenic agent.
83. (previously presented) The composition according to according to claim 40, wherein said therapeutic agent is a vitamin.

84. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 83, wherein said vitamin is selected from the group consisting of vitamin A, vitamin D, vitamin E, and vitamin K.

85. (currently amended) A composition comprising a non-covalent association complex of:

a) a positively charged backbone; ~~and~~

b) ~~at least two non-identical members selected from the group consisting of:~~

i) ~~a negatively charged backbone having a plurality of attached imaging moieties;~~

ii) a negatively charged backbone having a plurality of attached targeting agents;

iii) ~~at least one member selected from the group consisting of RNA, DNA, ribozymes, modified oligonucleotides and cDNA encoding a selected transgene;~~

iv) ~~DNA encoding at least one persistence factor;~~ and

v) a negatively charged backbone having a plurality of attached biological agents, wherein each of said biological agents is a cosmeceutical agent and not a nucleic acid;

wherein said non-covalent association complex carries a net positive charge ~~and at least one of said two members from group b) is selected from groups i), iii) or v).~~

86. (currently amended) The composition according to claim 40, wherein said positively charged backbone comprises positively charged branching groups attached thereto, said

positively charged branching groups having the formula  $(\text{gly})_p\text{-RGRDDRRQRRR-(gly)}_q$  (SEQ ID NO:19), wherein p and q are each independently an integer from 0 to 20, and wherein each positively charged branching group is attached to said positively charged backbone via the C-terminus or the N-terminus of said positively charged branching group.

87. (previously presented) The composition in accordance with claim 86, wherein the subscripts p and q are each independently integers of from 0 to 8.
88. (previously presented) The composition in accordance with claim 87, wherein the subscripts p and q are each independently integers of from 2 to 5.
89. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 86, wherein therapeutic agent is botulinum toxin.

**Claims 90-137 (cancelled)**